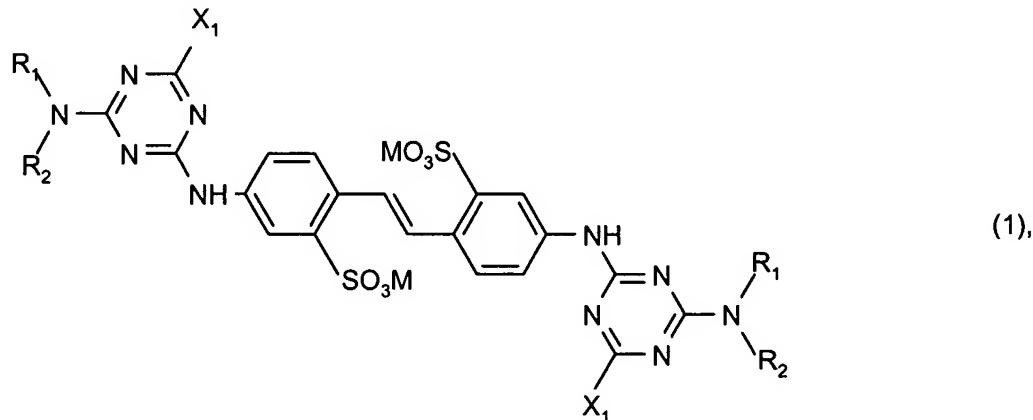


1. (original): A whitening pigment comprising the reaction product of  
 (a) a melamine-formaldehyde and/or a melamine—urea polycondensation product and  
 (b) a water-soluble fluorescent whitening agent of the formula



wherein each of the two

R<sub>1</sub> groups, independent of the other, represents a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl-O-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl residue, which is substituted by one or two -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -COOH, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or -NH<sub>2</sub> groups, each of the two

R<sub>2</sub> groups, independent of the other, represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, or

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together with the nitrogen atom complete a piperazine ring, each of the two

X<sub>1</sub> groups, independently, represent -OH, -OC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -Oaryl or the group -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> each, independently, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, a phenyl, phenyl mono- or disulphonic acid residue or,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino, piperidino or pyrrolidino ring or, alternatively,

X<sub>1</sub> represents an amino acid residue from which a hydrogen atom has been abstracted from the amino group and

M is hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal ion, ammonium, mono- di-, tri- or tetra-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylammonium or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkylammonium or mixtures thereof.

2. (original): A whitening pigment according to claim 1, wherein the component  
 (a) is a melamine-formaldehyde polycondensation product.

3. (currently amended): A whitening pigment according to ~~claims~~ claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein, in the compound of formula (1), each of the two R<sub>1</sub> groups, each of the two R<sub>2</sub> groups and each of the two X<sub>1</sub> groups are the same.

4. (currently amended): A whitening pigment according to ~~any one of claims~~ 1 to 3 claim 1, wherein, in the compound of formula (1),

R<sub>1</sub> represents a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl residue, which is substituted by one -CONH<sub>2</sub> or -CONHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl group.

5. (currently amended): A whitening pigment according to ~~any one of claims~~ 1 to 4 claim 1, wherein, in the compound of formula (1),

R<sub>2</sub> represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl.

6. (currently amended): A whitening pigment according to ~~any one of claims~~ 1 to 5 claim 1, wherein, in the compound of formula (1),

X<sub>1</sub> represents the group -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, wherein

R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxyC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, a phenyl, phenyl mono- or disulphonic acid residue,

R<sub>4</sub> represents hydrogen C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl or,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino ring or, alternatively,

X<sub>1</sub> represents an amino acid residue from which a nitrogen atom has been abstracted from the amino group.

7. (currently amended): A whitening pigment according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein, in the compound of formula (1),

M represents hydrogen, sodium or potassium.

8. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of whitening pigment according to claim 1, whereby ~~the~~ a melamine-formaldehyde or melamine-urea polycondensation product is reacted with a fluorescent whitening agent of formula (1) in aqueous medium, in the presence of mineral acid, and subsequently treated with base.

9. (currently amended): ~~Use of the whitening pigment composition, according to any one of claims 1 to 7, A method for the fluorescent whitening of paper which comprises applying to paper an effective whitening amount of a whitening pigment according to claim 1.~~

10. (original): A paper coating composition comprising, in addition to 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of the whitening pigment according to claim 1, per 100 parts of inorganic pigment,

- (i) from 3 to 25 parts by weight of binder and co-binder,
- (ii) 0 to 1 part by weight of rheology modifier and
- (iii) 0 to 2 parts by weight of wet-strength agent.

11. (currently amended): ~~Use of the coating composition according to claim 10, A method for the fluorescent whitening of paper which comprises applying to paper an effective whitening amount of a paper coating composition according to claim 10.~~

12. (currently amended): Paper which has been treated with a whitening pigment composition according to claim 19 or a coating composition, according to claim 10.

13. (new): Paper which has been treated with a coating composition according to claim 10.